

W R E

Another, by a fall in *wrestling*, started the end of the clavicle from the sternon. *Wise man's Surgery.*
To play or *wrestle* well, it should be used with those that do it better. *Temple.*

None in the leap spring with so strong a bound,
Or firmer in the *wrestling* press the ground. *Pope.*
2. To struggle; to contend.
I persuaded them, if they lov'd Benedick,
To wish him *wrestle* with affection,
And never to let Beatrice know of it. *Shakespeare.*
He knew not how to *wrestle* with desperate contingencies,
and so abhorred to be entangled in such. *Clarendon.*

WRE'STLER. *n. f.* [from *wrestle*.]
1. One who wrestles; one who professes the athletick art.
Was not Charles, the duke's *wrestler*, here? *Shakespeare.*
When the young *wrestlers* at their sport grew warm,
Old Milo wept, to see his naked arm. *Dehnam.*
'Tis not from whom, but where we live;
The place does oft those graces give:
Great Julius, on the mountains bred,
A flock perhaps, or herd, had led;
He that the world subdu'd, had been
But the best *wrestler* on the green. *Waller.*

2. One who contends in wrestling.
So earnest with thy God, can no new care,
No sense of danger, interrupt thy prayer?
The sacred *wrestler*, 'till a blessing giv'n,
Quits not his hold, but halting conquers heav'n. *Waller.*
Two *wrestlers* help to pull each other down. *Dryden.*

WRETCH. *n. f.* [precca, Saxon.]
1. A miserable mortal.
When I loved, I was a *wretch*. *Accidence.*
She weeps, and says her Henry is depos'd;
He smiles, and says his Edward is install'd;
That he, the poor *wretch*, for grief can speak no more. *Shak.*
The butcher takes away the calf,
And binds the *wretch*, and beats it when it strives. *Shakespeare.*
Illustrious *wretch*! repine not, nor reply:
View not what heav'n ordains, with reason's eye;
For bright the object is, the distance is too high. *Prior.*

2. A worthless sorry creature.
Bale-minded *wretches*, are your thoughts so deeply bemired
in the trade of ordinary worldlings, as for respect of gain some
paultry wool may yield you, to let so much time pass without
knowing perfectly her estate? *Sidney.*

Has these poor men in question: never saw I
Wretches so quake; they kneel, they kiss the earth,
Forwear themselves as often as they speak. *Shakespeare.*
Title of honour, worth and virtue's right,
Should not be given to a *wretch* so vile. *Daniel's Civil War.*
When they are gone, a company of starved hungry *wretches*
shall take their places. *L'Estrange.*

3. It is used by way of flight, or ironical pity, or contempt.
When soon away the wisp doth go;
Poor *wretch* was never frightened so:
He thought his wings were much too slow,
O'erjoy'd they so were parted. *Dryden's Nymphid.*
Then, if the spider find him fast beset,
She issues forth, and runs along her loom:
She joys to touch the captive in her net,
And drags the little *wretch* in triumph home. *Dryden.*

4. It is sometimes a word of tenderness, as we now say *poor thing*.
Chastened but thus, and thus his lesson taught,
The happy *wretch* the put into her breast. *Sidney.*

WRETCHED. *adj.* [from *wretch*.]
1. Miserable; unhappy.
These we should judge to be most miserable, but that a
wretcher fort there are, on whom, whereas nature hath be-
flowed ripe capacity, their evil disposition seriously goeth about
therewith to apprehend God, as being not God. *Hooker.*
O cruel death! to those you are more kind,
Than to the *wretched* mortals left behind. *Waller.*

Why do'st thou drive me
To range all o'er a waste and barren place,
To find a friend? The *wretched* have no friends. *Dryden.*
2. Calamitous; afflictive.

3. Sorry; pitiful; paltry; worthless.
When God was served with legal sacrifices, such was the
miserable and *wretched* condition of some mens minds, that
the best of every thing they had, being culled out for them-
selves, if there were in their flocks any poor, starved, or dis-
eased thing not worth the keepings, they thought it good
enough for the altar of God. *Hooker.*

Affected noise is the most *wretched* thing.
That to contempt can empty scriblers bring. *Rescommen.*
Forgive the many failings of those who, with their *wretched*
art, cannot arrive to those heights that you possess. *Dryden.*
4. Despicable; hatefully contemptible.
An adventure worthy to be remembered for the unused ex-

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amples therein, as well of true natural goodness as of *wretched*
ungratefulness. *Sidney.*

WRE'TCHEDLY. *adv.* [from *wretched*.]
1. Miserably; unhappily.
From these two wars, so *wretchedly* entered into, the duke's
ruin took its date. *Clarendon.*
2. Meanly; despicably.

When such little shuffling arts come once to be ripped up,
and laid open, how poorly and *wretchedly* must that man truck,
who finds himself guilty and baffled too? *Saul.*
WRE'TCHEDNESS. *n. f.* [from *wretched*.]
1. Misery; unhappiness; afflicted state.

My misery cannot be greater than it is: fear not the danger
of my blind steps, I cannot fall worse than I am, and do not
obstinately continue to infect thee with my *wretchedness*. *Sidney.*
He 'gan inquire

What hard mishap him brought to such distress,
And made that caitif's thrall the thrall of *wretchedness*. *F. & C.*
Clarion did at last decline

To lowest *wretchedness*; and is there then
Such rancor in the hearts of mighty men?
When they are weary of wars, and brought down to ex-
treme *wretchedness*, then they creep a little, and sue for grace,
'till they have recovered their strength again. *Spenser.*

I love not to see *wretchedness* o'ercharg'd,
And duty in his service perishing. *Shakespeare.*
We have with the feeling lost the very memory of such
wretchedness as our forefathers endured by those wars, of all
others the most cruel. *Raleigh.*

2. Pitifulness; despicableness.

WRE'TCHLESS. *n. f.* [This is, by I know not whose corrup-
tion, written for *rectless*.] Careless; mindless; heedless.
For any man to put off his present repentance, on con-
templation of a possibility that his latter repentance may serve the
turn, is the most *wretchless* presumption, and hath no promise
of mercy annexed to it. *Hammond.*

If persons of so circumspect a piety have been thus over-
taken, what security can there be for our *wretchless* officious?
Government of the Tongue.

To WRIGGLE. *v. n.* [wrgan, Saxon; *wiggelen*, Dutch.] To
move to and fro with short motions.

If sheep or thy lamb fall a *wriggling* with tail,
Go by and by search it, whilst help may prevail. *Tusser.*
The busy importunities of these extentional phantoms I
look upon as contemptuously, as upon the quick *wrigglings* up
and down of pismires. *More.*

The excellency of fawing is to keep keff exactly in the
line marked to be fawn, without *wriggling* on either side.
Moxon's Mech. Exer.

To bed went the bridegroom and the bride:
Was never such an ill-pair'd couple ty'd;
Reffless he to's'd, and tumbled to and fro,
And roll'd and *wriggled* farther off for woe. *Dryden.*

How wildly will ambition steer!
A vermin *wriggling* in th' usurper's ear. *Dryden.*
And both he and his successors would often *wriggle* in their
seats as long as the cushion lasted. *Swift.*

To WRIGGLE. *v. a.* To put in a quick reciprocating motion;
to introduce by shifting motion.

Ralpho was mounted now, and gotten
O'erthwart his beast with active vaulting,
Wriggling his body to recover

His seat, and cast his right leg over.
A slim thin-gutted fox made a hard shift to *wriggle* his body
into a hen-roof. *L'Estrange.*

WRIGGLETAIL. *n. f.* For *wrigglingtail*. See WRIGGLE.

My ragged ronts all shiver and shake;
They went in the wind, wagg their *wriggletails*,
Peck as a peacocks, but nought it avails. *Spenser.*

WRIGHT. *n. f.* [wrihta, wrihta, Saxon.] A workman; an
artificer; a maker; a manufacturer.

It is impossible duly to consider these things, without being
rapt into admiration of the infinite wisdom of the Divine
Architect, and contemplating the arrogant pretences of the
world and animal *wrights*, and much more the productions of
chance. *Cheyne.*

The verb To write has the same found with *wright*, a work-
man, right or equity, and rite or ceremony; but spelled very
differently. *Watts's Logick.*

To WRING. *v. a.* preter. and part. pass. *wringed* and *wrung*.
[wrgan, Saxon.]

1. To twist; to turn round with violence.
The priest shall *wring* off his head, and burn it on the
altar. *Lev. i. 15.*

2. To force out of any body by contortion.
He thrust the fleece together, and *wringed* the dew out of
it, a bowl full of water. *Jud. vi. 37.*

The dregs all the wicked shall *wring* out of drink. *Pf. lxxv.*
The figure of a sturdy woman, done by Michael Angelo,
washing and winding of linen cloths; in which act the *wringing*
out the water that made the fountain. *Warton.*

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Apply mild detergents on pledgets of lint over it, with a
compress *wring* out. *Wise man.*

3. To squeeze; to press.
In sleep I heard him say, sweet Desdemona,
Let us be wary, let us hide our loves!
And then, sir, would he gripe and *wring* my hand. *Shakespeare.*

4. To writhe.
The filly owner of the goods
Weeps over them, and *wrings* his hapless hands. *Shakespeare.*

5. To pinch.
The king began to find where his shoe did *wring* him, and
that it was his depressing the house of York that did rankle and
fester the affections of his people. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

If he had not been too much grieved, and *wring* by an un-
easy and freight fortune, he would have been an excellent
man of business. *Clarendon.*

6. To force by violence; to extort.
I had rather coin my heart,
And drop my blood for drachmas, than to *wring*
From the hard hands of peasants their vile trash
By any indirection. *Shak. Julius Caesar.*

Who can be bound by any solemn vow
To *wring* the widow from her custom'd right,
And have no other reason for his wrong,
But that he was bound by a solemn oath? *Shak. Hen. VI.*

That which I must speak,
Must either punish me, not being believ'd,
Or *wring* redress from you. *Shak. Meas. for Meas.*

Threatening cruel death, constrain'd the bride
To *wring* from me, and tell to them my secret. *Milton.*

7. To harass; to distress; to torture.
He dives into the king's soul, and there scatters
Doubts, dangers, *wringing* of the conscience,
Fear and despair, and all these for his marriage. *Shakespeare.*

Pleasure enchants, impetuous rage transports,
And grief dejects and *wrings* the tortur'd soul. *Rescommen.*
Did'st thou taste but half the griefs

That *wring* my soul, thou couldst not talk thus coldly. *Add.*
8. To distort; to turn to a wrong purpose.
To *wring* this sentence, to wrest thereby out of men's
hands the knowledge of God's doctrine, is without all reason. *Alcham's Schoolmaster.*

Lord, how dare these men thus *wring* the scriptures? *Whitg.*
9. To persecute with extortion.
The merchant-adventurers have been often wronged and
wringed to the quick; but were never quick and lively in
thanks to those by whose endeavours they were freed. *Hayw.*

To WRING. *v. n.* To writhe with anguish.
'Tis all men's office to speak patience
To those that *wring* under the load of sorrow;
But no man's virtue nor sufficiency,
To be so moral, when he shall endure
The like himself. *Shak. Much Ado about Nothing.*

WRINGER. *n. f.* [from *wring*.] One who squeezes the water
out of cloaths.

One Mrs. Quickly is in the manner of his nurse, his laun-
dress, his washer, and his *wringer*. *Shakespeare.*

WRINKLE. *n. f.* [wriuncle, Saxon; *wrinkel*, Dutch.]
1. Corruption or furrow of the skin or the face.

Give me that glass, and therein will I read:
No deeper *wrinkles* yet? Hath sorrow struck
So many blows upon this face of mine,
And made no deeper wounds? *Shakespeare. Richard II.*

She hath continued a virgin without any visible token, or
least *wrinkle* of old age. *Howel's Vocal Forest.*

To see a beggar's brat in riches flow,
Adds not a *wrinkle* to my even brow.

Though you and all your senseless tribes,
Could art, or time, or nature bribe,
To make you look like beauty's queen,
And hold for ever at fifteen;
No bloom of youth can ever blind
The cracks and *wrinkles* of your mind:
All men of sense will pass your door,
And crowd to Stella's at fourscore. *Dryden.*

2. Any roughness.
Our British heav'n was all serene;
No threatening cloud was nigh,
Not the least *wrinkle* to deform the sky.

To WRINKLE. *v. a.* [wriuncle, Saxon.]
1. To corrugate; to contract into furrows.
It is still fortune's use

To let the *wrinkled* man outlive his wealth,
To view with hollow eye and *wrinkled* brow
An age of poverty. *Shakespeare. Merchant of Venice.*

Scorn makes us *wrinkle* up the nose, and stretch the nostrils
also, at the same time drawing up the upper lip. *Bacon.*

Here steams ascend,
That in mixt fumes the *wrinkled* nose offend.
Here stood ill-nature, like an ancient maid,
Her *wrinkled* form in black and white array'd. *Pope.*

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2. To make rough or uneven.
A keen north-wind, blowing dry,
Wrinkled the face of deluges, as decay'd. *Milton.*

WRIST. *n. f.* [wryte, Saxon.] The joint by which the hand
is joined to the arm.

He took me by the *wrist*, and held me hard. *Shakespeare.*
The brawn of the arm must appear full, shadowed on one
side; then shew the *wrist*-bone thereof. *Peacham.*

The axillary artery, below the cubit, divideth unto two
parts; the one running along the radius, and passing by the
wrist, or place of the pulse, is at the fingers subdivided unto
three branches. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

WRISTBAND. *n. f.* [*wrist* and *band*.] The fastening of the
shirt at the hand.

WRIT. *n. f.* [from *write*.]
1. Any thing written; scripture. This sense is now chiefly used
in speaking of the Bible.

The church, as a witness, preacheth his mere revealed
truth, by reading publicly the sacred Scripture; so that a se-
cond kind of preaching is the reading of holy *writ*. *Hooker.*

Divine Eliza, sacred empress,
Live she for ever, and her royal places
Be fill'd with praises of divinely wits,
That her eternize with their heavenly *writs*. *Spenser.*

Bagdat rises out of the ruins of the old city of Babylon, so
much spoken of in holy *writ*. *Kneller's Hist. of the Turks.*

Others famous after known,
Although in holy *writ* not nam'd. *Paradise Regain'd.*
He cannot keep his fingers from meddling with holy *writ*.
More's Divine Dialogues.

Sacred *writ* our reason does exceed.
His story, filled with so many surprising incidents, bears so
close an analogy with what is delivered in holy *writ*, that it is
capable of pleasing the most delicate reader, without giving
offence to the most scrupulous. *Addison's Spectator.*

Of ancient *writ* unlocks the learned store,
Consults the dead, and lives past ages o'er. *Pope.*

2. A judicial process.
Hold up your head: hold up your hand,
Would it were not my lot to shew ye
This cruel *writ*, wherein you stand
Indicted by the name of Cloe. *Prior.*

3. A legal instrument.
The king is fled to London,
To call a present court of parliament:
Let us pursue him, ere the *writs* go forth. *Shak. Hen. VI.*

I folded the *writ* up in form of th' other,
Subscrib'd it, gave the impression, plac'd it safely,
The changeling never known. *Shakespeare.*

For every *writ* of entry, whereupon a common recovery is
to be suffered, the queen's fine is to be rated upon the *writ*
original, if the lands comprised therein be held. *Ayliffe.*

WRIT. The preterite of *write*.
When Sappho *writ*,
By their applause the critics shew'd their wit. *Prior.*

WRITATIVE. A word of *Pope's* coining: not to be imitated.
Increase of years makes men more talkative, but less *writative*;
to that degree, that I now write no letters but of plain
how d'ye's. *Pope to Swift.*

To WRITE. *v. a.* preterite *wrote* or *wrote*, part. pass. *written*,
writ, or *wrote*. [wrgan, wrgan, Saxon; *ad wita*, Islandick;
writa, a letter, Gothick.]

1. To express by means of letters.
I'll *write* you down,
The which shall point you forth, at every fitting,
What you must say. *Shakespeare.*

Men's evil manners live in brats, their virtues we *write* in
water. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*

When a man hath taken a wife, and the find no favour in
his eyes, then let him *write* her a bill of divorcement. *Deut.*
Write ye this song for you, and teach it Israel. *Deut. xxxi.*
David *wrote* a letter to Joab, and sent it by Uriah. *2 Sa. xi.*

The time, the place, the manner how to meet,
Were all in punctual order plainly *writ*. *Dryden.*

2. To engrave; to impress.
Cain was so fully convinced that every one had a right to
destroy such a criminal, that he cries out, every one that find-
eth me shall slay me; so plain was it *writ* in the hearts of all
mankind. *Locke.*

3. To produce as an author.
When more indulgent to the writer's ease,
You are so good, to be so hard to please;
No such convulsive pangs it will require
To *write*—the pretty things that you admire. *Granville.*

4. To tell by letter.
I chose to *write* the thing I durst not speak
To her I lov'd. *Prior.*

To WRITE. *v. n.*
1. To perform the act of writing.
I have seen her rise from her bed, take forth paper, fold it,
and *write* upon't. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*